

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8312

INFO SECDEF PRIORITY

USCINCSO PANAMA QUARRY HEIGHTS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 0273

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PE

SUBJECT: PERUVIAN ARMY PROCUREMENT PLANS

REF: LIMA 0183

1. PERUVIAN ARMY DIRECTOR OF LOGISTICS, GENERAL LUIS VILLAFUERTE FARFAN, CALLED ACTING CHMAAG TO HIS OFFICE TODAY TO ASK FOR INFORMATION ASAP ON STATUS OF PENDING ARMY REQUESTS FOR MATERIEL PROCUREMENT. VILLAFUERTE SAID THESE REQUESTS HAVE NOT BEEN ACTED UPON BY USG FOR WHAT SEEMS TO PERUVIAN ARMY AN INORDINATE AMOUNT OF TIME, AND SENIOR LEVEL OF GOP (IMPLYING PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ HIMSELF) WASHTS A "YES OR NO" RESPONSE AS TO USG WILLINGNESS TO PROVIDE THESE ITEMS. VILLAFUERTE SAID THAT IF USG CANNOT AGREE TO PROVIDE THIS MATERIEL PERUVIAN ARMY WILL IMMEDIATELY PROCEED TO CONSIDER THIRD COUNTRY SOURCES FOR THIS HARDWARE. IN RESPONSE TO CHMAAG QUESTION, VILLAFUERTE SAID THAT "AS OF YESTERDAY" PERUVIAN ATTACHE WASHINGTON HAD RECEIVED NO NEW INFORMATION ON STATUS OF THESE REQUESTS.

2. FIVE PROCUREMENT CASES WERE REVIEWED BY GENERAL VILLAFUERTE. THESE INCLUDE REQUESTS TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL M113 APC'S WHEELED VEHICLES, AND RADIOS FOR THE APC'S ALREADY PURCHASED BY PERUVIAN ARMY. OTHER TWO CASES CONCERN
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STATUS OF 4.2 INCH MORTARS PURCHASED WITH ORIGINAL APC'S

(PERUVIAN ARMY INSISTS ON NEW AND STANDARDIZED MORTARS), AND STATUS OF SELF-PROPELLED HOWITZER ALREADY PURCHASED BUT NOT DELIVERED (QUESTION HERE IS SPECIFICATIONS FOR PAINTING HOWITZERS, ON WHICH PERUVIAN ATTACHE IS NOW PRESUMABLY BEING INSTRUCTED). LAST-NAMED PROBLEM, AS POINTED OUT TODAY TO VILLAFUERTE BY CHMAAG, IS UP TO PERUVIANS RATHER THAN TO USG.

3. COMMENT: IF VILLAFUERTE'S REQUEST TODAY SEEMS SOMEWHAT PEREMPTORY IN TONE, IT SHOULD BE RECALLED THAT NEGOTIATIONS FOR SOME OF THIS MATERIEL HAVE BEEN UNDERWAY FOR CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN A YEAR. IN ANY EVENT, NOW THAT THE ONE OBVIOUS PROBLEM OF AN INTERIM AGREEMENT ON MARCONA IS OUT OF THE WAY, IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT GOP EXPECTS PROMPT FORWARD MOVEMENT ON PENDING MILITARY REQUESTS. WE REALIZE THAT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN STATE/DEFENSE IN PROCESSING THESE REQUESTS, BUT WE ARE APPARENTLY NOW DOWN TO THE "PUT UP OR SHUT UP" STAGE. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED TO SAY THAT THERE ARE NO POLICY PROBLEMS IMPEDING COMPLETION OF THESE PROCUREMENT TRANSACTIONS. MOREOVER, WE SHOULD NOW ACCELERATE THE PROCESSING OF THE ARMY CASES (AND THE PERUVIAN AIR FORCE AND NAVY REQUESTS AS WELL) TO CAPITALIZE ON THE FORWARD MOMENTUM OF THE MARCONA NEGOTIATIONS, AND THE RECENT MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. IF WE DO NOT SELL THE ABOVE LISTED ITEMS WE CAN FULLY EXPECT GOP TO TURN TO THIRD-COUNTRY SOURCES; THESE COULD BE WEST EUROPEAN SOURCES OR ALTERNATIVELY THE USSR. IN ANY EVENT WE BELIEVE THE BASIC USG POLICY DECISION THIS REGARD HAS ALREADY BEEN MADE, AND OF COURSE GOP HAS LIKEWISE SO CONCLUDED. IT NOW BEHOVES US ALL TO MOVE THESE REQUESTS AS EXPEDITIOUSLY AS POSSIBLE, AND AMBASSADOR STRONGLY URGES THAT HE BE AUTHORIZED ASAP TO INFORM GOP THAT THIS IS INDEED OUR INTENTION.

5. AMBASSADOR ALSO REQUESTS THAT FOREGOING INFORMATION BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FISHLOW.
DEAN

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